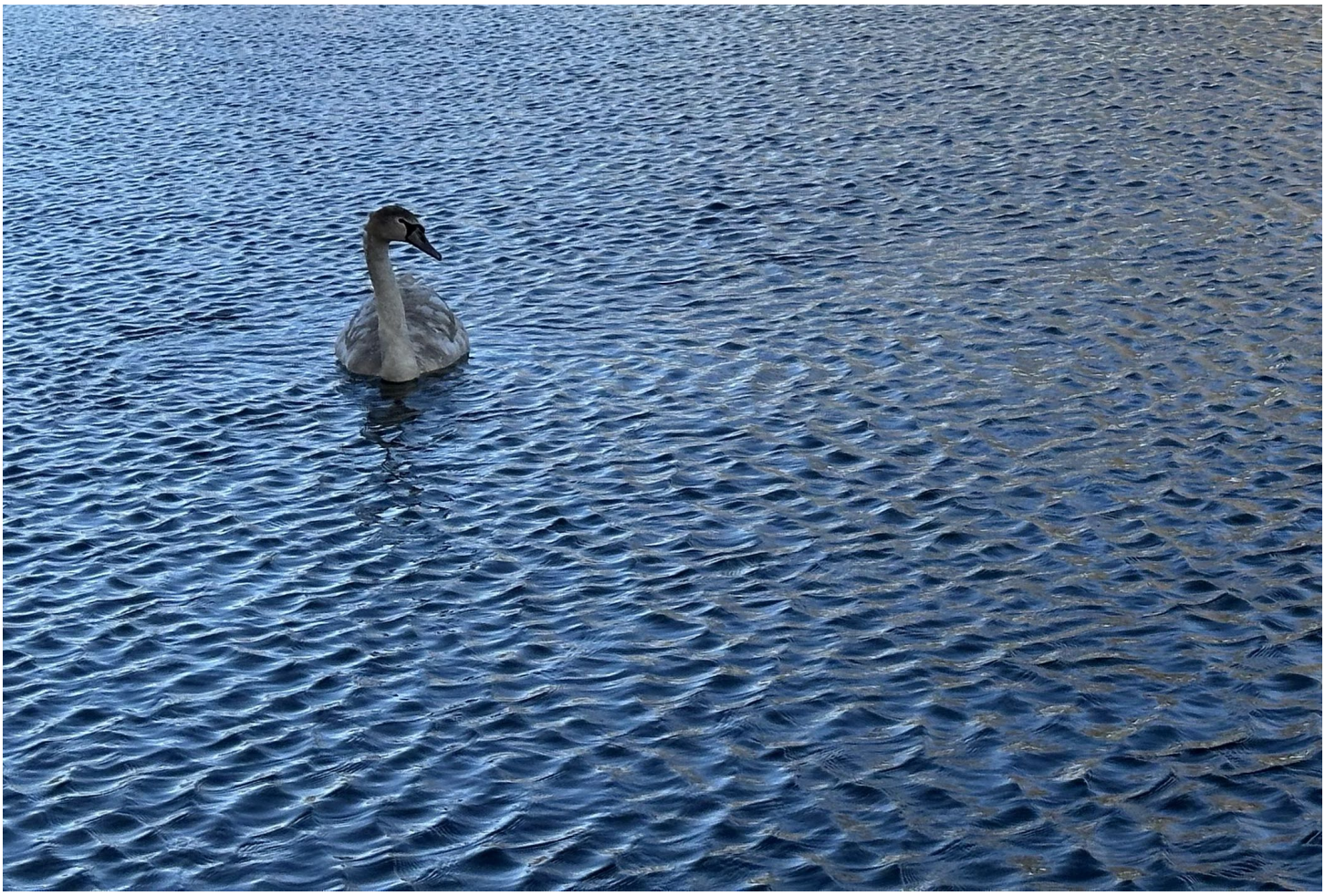
Ufford PUNCH

Issue 325 *February 2024*

Ufford's least successful dry January?



Rainfall records continue to fill up our water meadows

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Welcome to the Ufford PUNCH

From the Editor

Welcome to February's edition and congratulations to anyone in the village who completed Dry January, you clearly have more discipline than this month's editor.

'Dry' however wasn't a word bandied around much at the start of last month as another bout of heavy rainfall hit the area, again filling up the water meadows and causing concern for some house owners (p11). We can only hope that the weather becomes kinder and we get nowhere near W on the list of the Met Office storm names (trivia - there are no storms beginning with Q, U, X, Y or Z).

Nick Apperley kindly agreed to talk about his Motor Neurone Disease diagnosis and his plans to raise funds for a number of MND Charities (p13). Many in the village have already contributed to Nick's gofundme page that raised money for a now purchased electric-assist recumbent tricycle. That page is now closed to donations as Nick looks forward to supporting three charities via his new GiveWheel page. We wish Nick well.

The New Year's Day Treasure Hunt, a fantastic village event to kick off 2024, was hosted by last year's winners the Jones family (Mike, Helen, Flo and Monty) and gets this edition's centre pages (p14-15). The event was covered for us by second time entrant Andy Gardner and his team - spoiler alert, they didn't win!

The Punch team occasionally appeal for village help in keeping the magazine running smoothly. Many thanks to Chris Reading for answering the call for an assistant Nature Notes reporter, he makes his debut in this edition (p17).

Enjoy your Shrove Tuesday pancakes and don't forget that Valentine's card! **TH**

Cover photo - TH

Cover style - a retro look from October 2015

Nicky Scott and I have recently taken on the Archivist duties from Ros and now have noticeably less room in our homes. A perk for an editor however is having to hand all 324 editions sent to the village since the Punch started. Whilst flicking through a few back copies I noticed I was reading issue 225 as I was putting 325 together. So if the cover style looks familiar, it is, from 100 issues ago. Credit to the Editorial team that month Leann Giovnilli, Alex Bennett and David Beard.

Have you heard it on the PUNCHLINE?

Get the latest village news first via our digital newsletter 'PUNCHLine'.

If there is anything you want to broadcast, write your message and send it in Monday - Saturday for circulation to all our subscribers as soon as possible.

To subscribe, or broadcast news, email punchline@uffordpunch.org.uk

GO TO www.uffordpunch.org.uk FOR THE ONLINE EDITIONS

Ufford PUNCH March 2024

Deadline for submissions: 16th February 2024

UFFORD PUNCH NOTICEBOARD

MND Coffee Morning Fundraiser

Jenny Finch will be holding a coffee morning on Thursday 21st March at her home Stoneyfield, Ufford Place from 10.00 am until 12 noon.

"I hope this coffee morning will help raise awareness of Motor Neurone Disease and it is my wish that it will raise some funds which will help Nick and his lovely family to live out the best and fullest life that is possible, which, in time, may require specialist equipment and alterations to their home" - Jenny Finch

(Please see page 13 of this edition)

Ufford Players are busy rehearsing their next production of "Murder at Cliff House" by Janet Smith which will be performed at the Ufford Church Hall on March 22nd and 23rd.

Tickets will be on sale at the hall on Saturdays 10th,17th and 24th of February from 10.00am - 12.00pm or contact Belinda Laffling at lafflings@gmail.com or on 07757 739101

Fish and Chips at £12.50 or £7.00 Bring Your Own and please remember your favourite tipple. Doors open at 7pm.

The PUNCH are delighted to introduce our newest advertiser, the Deben Cafe Bar on HMS Vale.

Cate and the team will be re-opening their doors to customers on Saturday 10th February after recent ship maintenance and are kindly offering Punch readers 5% off, on production of their advert. Opening times are seasonal, so please visit www.debencafe.co.uk for more information.

Deben Café Bar on HMS Vale

A licensed café bar on the aft deck of an old war ship floating in the River Deben alongside Melton Boatyard near Woodbridge.

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Please note we are a walking/cycling destination; there is no parking in Melton Boatyard. Trains stop at Woodbridge and Melton for a wonderful one-way river walk.

5% Discount for all Ufford Punch readers on production of this advert

Ufford and The Great War

When speaking to Andy Pritchatt for our November article on his book *Ufford and The Great War*, I asked if I could buy two copies, for myself and a fellow villager. Andy apologised and said there were none left, all those produced in 2015 had been sold and his spare copies 'borrowed'.

However, at the start of the year I received an email from Andy, very kindly giving ourselves at the Punch and the Suffolk Family History Society a PDF with a print copy of his book. The PDF can be viewed and downloaded for free from our website using the QR code (right) or by copying the following link into your browser https://uffordpunch.org.uk/great-war/

Thank you very much Andy, it will be a great resource for the Punch and an interesting read for anyone who wasn't around in 2015 to buy the hard copy. **TH**

Ros and Adrian's Punch Farewell

Having recently announced that Ros and Adrian were stepping down after twelve years of loyal Punch service, we finally managed to get together and celebrate their achievements over a few drinks at a farewell meal in the Ufford Crown.

The committee presented Ros and Adrian with their own 'Special Edition' of the Punch and a framed front cover with Punch Towers in all it's fictional magnificence!

The special edition was a handpicked selection of pages taken from each of those twelve years and provided some great personal memories for us to talk about.

Adrian thanked Ros "for her constant and tireless support for everything Punch" and said they would both miss the friendship and camaraderie that came with keeping our village magazine going.

Ros and Adrian made significant contributions to that cause - thank you both. **TH**

Scarecrow Champions 2012

The Ufford Neighbourhood Plan

Preserving Our Village Character and Values

Design Guidelines and Codes

The ***Ufford Design Guidelines and Codes*** is a 64-page supplement to the Ufford Neighbourhood Plan. The Design Guidelines identify how any housing development should be carried out to reflect Ufford's character. The Codes are requirements that provide specific development parameters. Developers must implement the Codes and show how the Guidelines have informed design.

New housing should ensure that the distinctive character of the village is maintained, should be well designed and be environmentally and socially sustainable. A key purpose of the Neighbourhood Plan is not only to help influence the designers and proposers of development at an early stage of formulating their proposals, but also to help promote an understanding of what elements make up the character of the area and what constitutes good design that respects Ufford's local character.

The Parish-wide Codes provide guidance in several areas: local built form and architectural vernacular, development layout, landscape, nature and open spaces, and sustainability.

The Guidelines explore the distinct character of different village areas: Byng Brook, Yarmouth Road, School Lane, Loudham Lane, Parklands and Lower Street, with photographs typical of each area. It covers in detail aspects of design including built form, local architecture vernacular, roof profiles and materials, architectural features (such as wall material, windows, doorways and chimneys), plot layout, boundaries, landscape, trees and shrubs, parking and street design.

Ecological Corridors

Last month we featured a number of aspects of the Pre-Submission Neighbourhood Plan related to the Environment. In the Household Survey, many residents stressed the importance of maintaining and sustaining the biodiversity of flora and fauna within the village. Over the years, hedgerows have disappeared as farming becomes more complex and species loss has increased. Recent floods show how climate change is impacting our rivers and water meadows.

The NP Steering Group members conducted surveys of wildlife in the parish including mammals, birds, amphibians and invertebrates which showed the presence of many endangered species. We have mapped the existing routes where wildlife can move across field, domestic and water meadow boundaries. As a result, we have identified a clear ***Ecological Corridors*** policy for the future and a series of actions to allow nature to recover and thrive. Examples of good practice include landowners who replant old hedgerows to allow wildlife to travel and who encourage biodiversity and sustainability through the planting of natural field margins rather than planting crops and spraying up to field edges.

Early Purple Orchid in wooded area close to A12 Ufford bypass. Photo by Rilla Forge

If you have questions or comments about the Neighbourhood Plan please feel free to contact a member of the NP Steering Group: Nigel Smith (Chairman), Philippa Adcroft, Edward Creswick. David Findley, Rilla Forge, Kathryn Jones, Steve Mayhew, Simon Read, Samantha Summers. Emails can be sent via *ufford.pc@hotmail.com*.

UPC Ufford Parish Council News

80th Anniversary D-Day Celebrations in 2024

"*On 6 June 1944, Operations Neptune and Overlord unfolded. Meticulously planned over the course of years, they set the stage for one of humanity's most audacious military campaigns as the Allies sought to retake Western Europe from the Nazis. In planning and execution, the synchronised movements of hundreds of thousands of personnel and millions of tonnes of steel by sea and air onto the land, paved the way for extraordinary success*" A quote from Admiral Sir Ben Key KCB CBE ADC, First Sea Lord and Chief of Naval Staff.

Churchill AVRE tank with Petard Spigot Mortar used to destroy pill boxes and enemy bunkers

But did you know, the village of Ufford played a vital part in D-Day? During World War II, part of the 79th Armoured Division of the British Army were based in Ufford; specifically in Ufford Place and Parklands Wood. The Division, under the command of Major-General Percy Hobart, developed a series of specialist armoured fighting vehicles derived from tanks, known as the Hobart's Funnies, designed to ensure the Normandy landings were a success.

Ufford Parish Council would like to organise an event on 6th June 2024, to commemorate the work of the 79th Armoured Division and the role Ufford played. Do you have any ideas for a suitable event? Do you have family stories regarding the D-Day landings, which have been passed down? If you do, please let us know.

Call for Volunteers

In May 2023 last year the Coronation of King Charles was enjoyed by all and day three of the celebrations was the 'Big Help Out' Day. It was a day when many citizens in Ufford volunteered to help in our community and together we made a positive difference. Ufford Parish Council are now asking for volunteers to help with a variety of Village activities once more

- Could you help clear brush and crowded saplings in the Woodlands? Then come and join the Friends of Parklands Wood who work in the woods on Mondays.
- Could you take part in one Community Speed Watch session a month to help keep our roads safe? In 2023, we reported 196 speeding motorists to the Police; with the highest recorded speed of 50 mph; but with more volunteers we could do so much more.
- Perhaps you have skills that could be used in either of our Village Halls?

If you want to give some of your time to your village community and want to volunteer, please let us know. It doesn't have to be forever, but it is a great way to get out of the house, meet new people and help Ufford be a great place to live.

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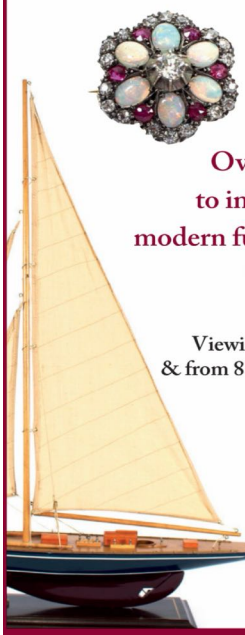

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Christmas Leftovers

To get the Punch out in January we have a very early deadline in December, meaning we often have lots of events we just can't cover in a timely fashion. The Suffolk Tractor Light Parade (below), the White Lion Christmas Open Mic (p10) and the Christmas Carols at the Crown (p12) were three such events …

Suffolk Tractor Light Parade

It's not often you see a convoy of 94 agricultural vehicles bedecked in lights, trees, Santas and reindeer roll into Ufford, spreading a whole lot of pre-Christmas cheer.

In just its second year, the Suffolk Tractor Light Parade left Clarke and Simpson's Campsea Ashe premises and wound a route through Wickham Market, Ufford, Melton, Woodbridge, Eyke and Rendlesham before finishing in Tunstall.

With large crowds lining the route, including just under a hundred along our High Street, nearly £7,000 was raised (£2,000 in their first year) for charity. This year, the two charities benefitting were Suffolk Lowland Search and Rescue and Just42. SULSAR is a 'voluntary specialist search team which helps the emergency services find missing vulnerable adults and children.' Just42 are a Woodbridge based charity aiming 'to make a positive impact on the lives of young people and children in rural Suffolk.'

This fun family event organised by the Suffolk farming community really seems to be gaining traction (sorry) and Sunday 15th December has already been pencilled in for the 2024 light parade. **TH**

White Lion Christmas Open Mic

The White Lion and Tom Mumford hosted another cracking open mic evening with a smattering of Christmas songs thrown in for festive good measure.

As you can see from the photos on the left, the talented line up of musicians we were treated to were more than capable of playing all their songs with their eyes shut.

The two Andy's, Jarrett and Gardner (above), who bravely stepped up to the mic at the end of the evening, very much needed their eyes open for the lyrics to the classic *Fairytale Of New York* and the ever festive *I've Got A Brand New Combine Harvester!* **TH**

WHITE LION PUB

Lower Street, Ufford

2024

Winter at the White Lion

If you are planning a celebration gathering, wedding or Christening, the White Lion marquee is available from April to the end of October. We can cater for up to 120 guests. Eat alfresco with us cooking from our outside kitchen.
Just call or e-mail for further information.

PLEASE NOTE

We will be closed for refurbishments from Monday 19th until 29th February.
We reopen on Friday 1st March.
See our events list on our website for further information.

HOT OFF THE PRESS

Uffa Brewery will have its first brew ready for Friday 1st March

stephen_thurlow@hotmail.com Please reserve a table to avoid disappointment 01394 460770

Please check our website for details of our events: www.uffordwhitelion.co.uk

Village Flooding Update

One of the latest storms to hit Ufford brought an unwanted Christmas Day present - a five foot tree log that threatened to bring renewed flooding to Byng Brook and the High Street.

The huge trunk was discovered by Marvyn and Sarah Godfrey in the brook beside their rental property Bridge Bungalow on Christmas Day morning as most residents were sharing presents and preparing their turkey feasts.

The unwanted Yuletide Log - photo by Sarah Godfrey

The couple, who suffered flooding damage during Storm Babet in October 2023, feared a repeat of the incident, which was partly caused by debris blocking the culvert underneath Byng Brook bridge.

Sarah, 48, a teaching assistant, said husband Marvyn, now a marine engineer, had previously worked as a tree surgeon for 20 years and used all his experience to deal with the festive problem.

She told the PUNCH: "Marvyn was checking the water levels in the brook, which he does obsessively now after the recent flooding."

"To our surprise we found that Santa had left us a little present - a section of tree trunk five foot long by two foot in diameter. Marvyn got in the stream and attempted to roll the log, but soon realised he is not 20-years old anymore."

The pair reluctantly made the decision to chainsaw the log as further heavy rain was predicted after Christmas Day. Sarah said:"We thought our neighbours might not appreciate the noise of a chainsaw, but hoped they would understand the reason."

Marvyn, also 48, began sawing at 10.30am and the task took three hours. The wood is now in their log store. Afterwards, they celebrated with a drink at the White Lion, Lower Ufford. Sarah said: "We got dry, changed and took Marvyn's new tankard - which was a present from me - to the White Lion to test it out before returning to ours for a fry up."

The couple enjoyed their traditional turkey dinner on Boxing Day when they were joined by Marvyn's 13-year-old daughter Mollena.

The first storm - Storm Gerrit - hit between December 25-27th and was closely followed by Storm Henk, which brought renewed chaos to the region from January 2nd, 2024.

Across East Suffolk and around Ufford, Storm Henk sparked the more intense flooding, dumping 70 per cent of January's average rainfall on the village over five days.

Ufford Parish Council Chair David Findley said: "The Ufford five day total was around 42.5mm - a bit short of Wattisham's 53mm - but still 70 per cent of the January average." The water meadows were again swamped but did their job. Unlike Storm Babet, when five properties in the village were damaged, there was no flooding of homes or businesses.

The water meadows doing their job - photo by Andy Gardner

The owners of the five properties damaged by flooding during Storm Babet have received £500 each in government funds to help them get back on their feet via Suffolk County Council and East Suffolk County Council.

David Findley also told us that the Parish Council is working on an Emergency Plan for Ufford to help deal with major events, such as extreme weather or a large-scale power outage.

He said: "This plan will ensure that residents know what to do and who to contact in the event of an emergency."

By the time you read this, David will have attended a three-hour Sunday afternoon workshop hosted by 'Framlingham Flood Resilience and Recovery Group.'

The aim of the expert panel was to discuss "what can be done to mitigate the effects of future flooding locally."

Andy Gardner

Christmas Carols at the Crown

Christmas Carols and a mulled wine are a proven recipe for getting one in the festive spirit. The Crown bar was packed, hymn sheets were in hands and we were ready to go. Many thanks to Nick and Jill Apperley, who along with Sarah Ling led everyone (especially those that may have been slightly less confident) into the opening lines of each carol and made it such an enjoyable evening.

Polly, Max and the team once again generously supplied sustenance and the raffle, with some rather good prizes, was a huge success.

"O Come All Ye Faithful"

Polly commented "A huge thank you to everyone who attended our Carols evening and especially to Nick, our Choirmaster, who does such a brilliant job of leading the Carols every year. Thanks also to those who bought raffle tickets and to those who donated the fantastic prizes, we raised £700 for the MND Association and will continue to raise money for this incredible charity throughout this year. It was very heart-warming to see everyone joining us for this festive evening and we really appreciate all the support." **TH**

"Hark the Ufford Angels Sing"

"The Raffle and The Prizes"

THE UFFORD CROWN

12th ANNIVERSARY

THE UFFORD CROWN

DATES FOR YOUR 2024 DIARY

Valentine's Day - Wednesday 14th February
Mothers' Day Lunch - Sunday 10th March
Easter weekend - Friday 29th March to Monday 1st April

We recommend booking in advance for these popular dates to avoid disappointment. We look forward to seeing you soon.

The Ufford Crown
High Street
Ufford, Suffolk
IP13 6EL

Please call to book a table on 01394 461030 or book online: www.theuffordcrown.com

Dog friendly with treats and water bowls

Nick Apperley is fundraising for MND

Many will have heard the news that village stalwart Nick has been diagnosed with Motor Neurone Disease and how he is determined to raise funds to support MND charities and raise awareness. Please consider donating online at Nick's GiveWheel page **https://www.givewheel.com/fundraising/1930/nicks-fundraising/**

Jill explains recent developments and outlines plans for the future.

"Following an MND diagnosis in 2023 my husband Nick is now finding his much loved outdoor activities are increasingly limited.

A year ago, we walked 70 miles in five days as Part IV of our South West coast path adventure. We returned in September this year, but after a really arduous day, Nick had managed just five painful miles in five hours. So, 290 miles in, our wonderful SWCP adventure has come to an end.

Nick's three times a week early morning runs finished 15 months ago, on his 60th birthday, leaving him with just his much loved cycling. As he is no longer able to get on his trusty road bike, Plan-B, which was for a step through electric assist bike, disappointingly didn't work out either as he was unable to 'get his leg over' - his words, not mine - to get on and off!

Nick remains undeterred and, in a determined effort to get out and about - and particularly to try and help others with MND now and in the future - he is keen to raise money for the MND Association, ChallengingMND and other MND related charities. So now he is onto Plan-C: an electric-assist recumbent tricycle, which should give him some future-proofing."

With many contributions to a crowdfunding page, Nick now has his e-assist tricycle and is delighted to be out and about again. The support in getting the tricycle, the £700 raised by the Ufford Crown carol evening and a Coffee Morning for MND arranged for March, has seen Nick's campaign off to a great start.

Nick is planning to organise a summer evening cycle, starting and finishing at the Ufford Crown. More details of this and other events will be announced nearer the time.

Nick and Jill commented *"We would like to thank all of those in Ufford who have very kindly donated towards the tricycle and also for your ongoing support."*

Keep your eyes peeled, you might see Nick out and about

Nick is looking forward "*I'm planning to 'Do more in '24', travel with Jill, spend time with the boys, Jane, family & friends, as well as ride my tricycle to cover some miles and organise cycles to raise funds for three charities."*

MND Association - to assist their work supporting and caring for MND sufferers, as well as invaluable research into causes and future treatments.

ChallengingMND - who offer MND sufferers the opportunity to create amazing memories with their family and friends which will last forever. They kindly agreed to contribute towards the cost of an electric-assist recumbent tricycle which I've now purchased to get me out and about.

My Name'5 Doddie Foundation - the foundation is committed to helping improve the lives of those affected by Motor Neurone Disease funding Research to find a cure, Support for families of those with MND, Awareness, Sustainability, Love, Fun & Hope.

Nick added "*Any offers to join me or organise events to support these very worthy charities would be very much appreciated. Carpe diem!"* **TH**

New Year's Day Treasure Hunt

They came in their dozens, with hope, faith and in most cases, a hangover the size of Suffolk.

The annual White Lion New Year Day jaunt attracted 13 teams for the circular route march and quiz to herald in 2024. And behold, the sun shone and the world looked mighty fine.

Sisters of Mercy: Amanda Baker welcomes her sister Emma, husband Alex and niece Alice, plus dog Ted to the traditional walk.

It's not cold: Jonathan Eley shows how real rugby players do it - in shorts. Wife Penny is more sensible, together with Chary and Charlie of Ufford High Street.

Along School Lane these clues could be answered …
Which spring crumble could you wish for on this road?
100 stoned fruits, where am I?
Where might one find some dinosaur DNA?

It seemed odds on the rain gods would pour down and spoil the fun as the UK's 'driest county' took a festive battering to add to the woes of Storms Babet and Ciaran. I am thinking of moving to Scotland for the weather.

The day started as it always does with the hardy - or teetotal - gathering at the village local, resplendent in their Christmas galoshes and Le Chameau wellington boots to gossip over a cup of scalding coffee and a bacon roll.

Scout's out: Rilla and Steven with Scout their Labrador and Rilla's nephews Quincey and Sebastian

Eyke, we're 'ere: Simon and Sandy Sutch from Eyke and friend Jo Shaw from Ufford

"She didn't do that?" exclaimed one bouffant beauty to her guffawing friend before tucking into her sarnie like a Victorian washerwoman. It appears she did and more about that in the March edition of the PUNCH.

Around Ufford Place, these puzzles had to be solved …
When I shout 'fore!' You'd better avoid which house?
I uphold the law, where do I live?

Elsewhere in the depths of the pub 'locals' supped a sharpener of Wherry before heading out and up Lower Road clutching their questions, set by last year's champs Mike and Helen Jones, who had planned it with the precision of the D Day Invasion. There were seven sections and a picture round and something for the kids. A red ribbon marked the spot where you could pick up a sticker. Even some of the children took part.

Can we win it? No we can't!: Paul Rust, wife Karen and family were happy - they didn't win

It seems Mike, 45 and Helen, 44, had been dropped into it by South London friends Jon and Flora Muschamp in 2023. Flora, by all accounts is a winner at all costs. The cost, of course, was our local couple of Old Church Road having to set the quiz when their friends couldn't make the new year.

"We've walked the course about five times," said Mike, one of the co-founders of the artist collective Marshmallow Laser Feast. At least he got to stay in the warm with children Flo, nine and six-year-old Monty.

The winding route arched left up Lower Road before doubling back to take in the grounds of the former grand house at Ufford Place, and its new properties, before heading towards The Avenue and School Lane. Clues were aplenty, answers less so.

The High Street led to a footpath I never knew existed. Over the squishy fields we yomped, led by an army of dogs. Then up towards the Boons Turkey Farm, which seemed ominously quiet. Back on Spring Lane we were on the home straight, virtually dragging one teenager by her mobile phone.

New Year's Day Treasure Hunt

A brief foray into the grounds of St Mary of the Assumption Church where we tried in vain to find the tombstone of John Pizzey. Then back to the pub. Our Walking Distance Tracker said we'd done three miles. It felt more.

There were faces I knew, others I recognised and some who seem to come out less than the sun on a gloomy winter's day. There were even interlopers. We left them alone. It was the Christmas season after all.

Up from town: Nina Bickerton and Richard Shaw, from Woodbridge

Mike and Helen were surprised that in the picture round only 5 of the 13 teams spotted the image to the left. Would you have known the exact location it could be found?

As Mike and Helen began the marking of papers, the walkers tucked into the traditional sausage and mash lunch provided by host Stephen Thurlow and young chef Finn Boorne. Excellent value at £10 with 60 servings in less than 90-minutes. A cracking effort.

As 2.30pm approached, Mike took to the bar, the results clutched close to his chest. Who would be next year's sacrificial lambs? Sorry, worthy victors. Anxious glances all around.

Mike gave I'm a Celebrity hosts Ant McPartlin and Declan Donnelly a run for their money with the run-down of results. Who would win? *The No Hopes*? Or *Double Trouble*? Perhaps those dark horses *Better Late than Never*?

This is not posed: Mike Jones (centre) reads out the winners, flanked by Kit Thomas (left) and Andy Jarrett

Now imagine a drum roll here..... And the winners were .... '*Go Ballistic*'. Aka, Lee and Julie Murray of Lazy Acres, the High Street, Ufford.

We are the Champions: The victors celebrate in style. Lee Murray and wife Julia alongside friends and the real brains of the outfit, Richard and Sarah Dempsey of Melton

Lee immediately demanded a recount. Forget it. They scored 39 points, with the two teams who were second on 35 points. The bottom team - who shall remain nameless - scored 21 points.

Lee, who now works at Felixstowe docks, after a long career with the Royal Mail, told the PUNCH: "We have been doing this walk for ten years and have come second a few times. Always the bridesmaid and never the bride."

Thanks to Mike and Helen for setting the questions and letting us share some of them with you.

Down Church Lane and into the churchyard for …
One of Guy Ritchie's inspirations for his 1998 movie?
What might have been John's favourite Italian food?
What was W. Larkins profession?

How did you do? Answers can be found on page 16

The couple - parents of White Lion bar workers Alex and Beth - put their success down to popping home during the walk for a swift gin liquor. They also had the intellectual prowess of friends Richard and Sarah Dempsey, of Melton.

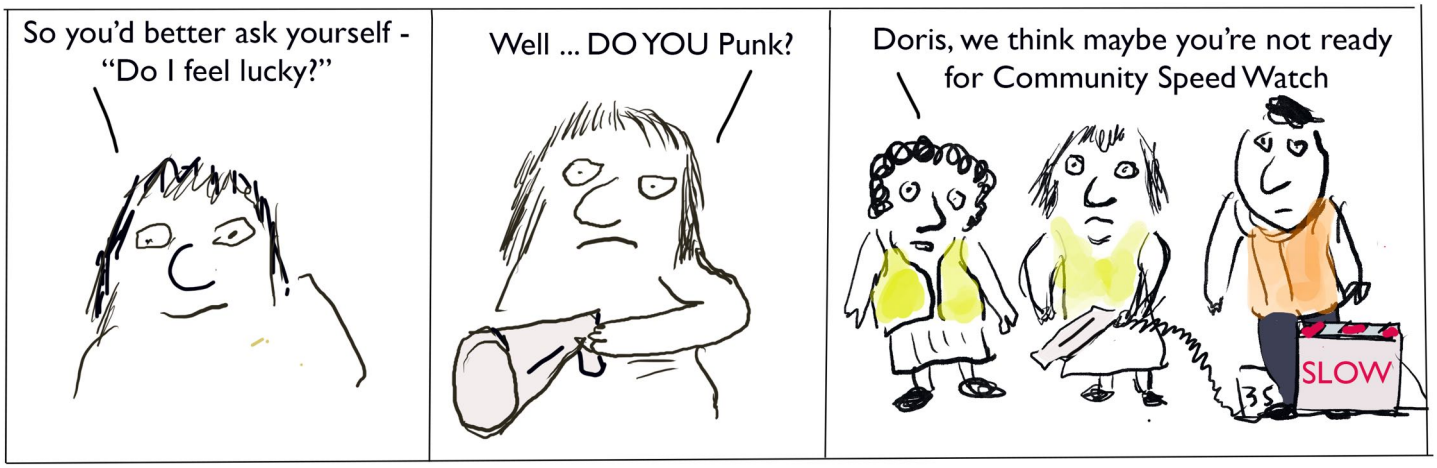
They have already begun planning for 2025.

"We are setting up a committee and are working on some surprises for next year. I rather fear that Ufford will have seen nothing like it," said Lee.

The countdown starts here.

Words and photos by Andy Gardner

EPI SPORGERSI ...



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The answers to the New Year's Day Treasure Hunt ...

Rhubarb Cottage
Cheriton
Amberwood

Hill House
Copperswood

Suffolk Punch horse - village sign, bottom of the Avenue

Lock, Stock(s) and Two Smoking Barrels
Pizza
Lightning Protection

Nature Notes by Chris Reading

Recently, as I looked out over our back garden and the water meadows beyond, I noticed a flock of birds swirl around and then settle in a tree. With the aid of my binoculars, I identified 20 Redwing. They are winter visitors from Scandinavia and come here to look for food. They like worms and berries: particularly hawthorn, rowan and holly. They are about the size of a Song Thrush but easily identified by a creamy stripe above the eye and rufous patches under their wings, which give them their name. They will soon return to Scandinavia to breed but you might still spot them. They are always in flocks and prefer open countryside and woodland.

Redwing - photo courtesy of John Richardson

I expect many of you took part in the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch in January. About half a million people in the UK participate each year, providing vital data on how different birds are faring. You might also be interested in the Garden Birdwatch run by the British Trust for Ornithology. This is like the RSPB version, except that it runs throughout the year and records information on other forms of wildlife: for example, bees, butterflies, dragon flies, squirrels and hedgehogs. For further information, visit the BTO website.

I have taken part in this project for several years. I took a break during our move to Suffolk but have started again and installed feeders and a bird bath in our garden. You don't have to submit data every week, just as often as you like. Pam and I love watching the birds on the feeders eating their breakfast, while we have ours.

Nature Knowledge - A slow worm is neither a worm nor a snake but a legless lizard. They are harmless to humans but useful in gardens, as they eat slugs and snails.

Following Laurence Potter's recent request for some local assistance in writing Nature Notes, the Punch are very happy to welcome Chris Reading on board. Chris very kindly volunteered to make contributions when Laurence is busy on other projects. Thank you and good luck Chris.

My wife, Pam, and I are newcomers to Ufford, having moved here from Newport to be closer to our family. We moved into Croft Cottage in Lower Street in September and have been made very welcome. You can read more about us in the November issue: 'Welcome to Newcomers from Wales'. Pam and I have always been keen on wildlife. On retirement, we volunteered for the RSPB at the Newport Wetlands Reserve, helping school children with pond dipping, bird watching and bug hunting. I also volunteered for the Gwent Wildlife Trust, building and monitoring nest boxes. With a partner, I monitored about 30 nest boxes on a GWT reserve near Usk for many years. This involved working with the British Trust for Ornithology and I eventually became a registered recorder for them. I look forward to working with Laurence Potter and other members of the team at the Ufford Punch.

Chris Reading

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Kit's Deer - Bucking or Staggering?

We folks at the Punch are sticklers for accuracy, punctilious to the point of pedantry, so we were mortified to receive the following from Parish Council Clerk Judi Hallett.

I have to agree the picture of the deer on Page 11 of the January edition, is magnificent. However, I don't think it is a stag, I think it is more likely to be a buck. It can only be described as a stag if it is a red deer or a sika, and I don't think there are any of those in Ufford. It is more likely to be a roe or fallow deer, and in that case it is a buck.

Our legal department did suggest the international usage defence – in the U.S, where they hunt anything and abhor rank and titles, "stag" can be used to describe any mature male deer. But until we complete negotiations to outsource our production to China, the Punch remains a British publication.

There's also a circumstantial argument that the RSPB Minsmere in Suffolk has the largest herd of red deer outside Scotland; a healthy stag could easily manage the journey to Sudbourne in 2 hours, giving it ample time to pose for a photoshoot and make it back again in time for roll call. [Note to self:

add a subplot where our hero is ostracised for refusing to participate in the toxic masculine rituals of rutting season and then sell the film rights to Disney *based on a true story*].

But looking at the photo evidence and comparing it to online pictures, our best bet is that this is a fallow deer, and therefore a buck. If you have more idea of deer, let us know. Meanwhile we apologise to our readers. **Kevin Young**

The Leap Year Quiz (answers on p24)

1. *Those born on a Leap Day are called leaplings, but how many leaplings are there in the world? A) Approx 4 million B) Approx 16 million or C) Approx 30 million?*
2. *On 29th February 1940 Hattie McDaniel became the first African American to win what?*
3. *The year 2100 will be a leap year - true or false?*
4. *The classical composer responsible for The Thieving Magpie was born on 29th February 1792, who was he?*
5. *2024 is Chinese Year of the … ?*
6. *Which Kylie Minogue hit was number 1 in the UK Charts on 29th February 1988?*
7. *Which President of the United States was elected in the leap year 1860?*
8. *Davy Jones, English singer, guitarist and actor died on 29th February 2012, which band was he in?*
9. *The first modern Olympic Games was held in Athens, in which leap year?*
10. *Irish legend has it that Saint Brigid struck a deal with Saint Patrick allowing women to propose to their reticent partners on 29th February. What was this day referred as - Bachelor's Day or Spinster's Day?* ***TH***

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Our garden column is provided by local gardener Nikk Slowey FdSc Hort. who along with her husband Christian runs garden design and maintenance company Honeysuckle Horticulture - visit www.honeysucklehorticulture.co.uk

"When February sun shines cold
There comes a day when in the air
The wings of winter slow unfold
And show the golden summer there"
Philip Henry Savage (1868–1899)

February is like a turning point in the garden. It's still cold outside, but there are signs of spring's imminent arrival everywhere. Bulbs are slowly emerging from the ground, and the days are getting longer at last.

This month's garden jobs are mostly about getting things ready for the spring. But there are also some early sowing and growing tasks to do to get you ready for the Spring rush.

Jobs for the Ornamental Garden

Keep on top of any weeds and prevent them from taking hold. In dry weather using a hoe is a great time saver, otherwise hand weeding can be very meditative.

Garden birds need your help more than ever now. Keep bird feeders clean and topped up, and ensure their baths are filled with fresh water daily.

If you are aching to get growing towards the end of the month, begin to sow hardy annuals either in the greenhouse or on windowsills. Choose from snapdragons, ammi, scabious, marigolds and the cup and saucer vine for extra early flowers

Cut back deciduous grasses left uncut over the winter and remove the dead grass from evergreen grasses.

As winter flowering shrubs finish their display, prune them back. Also consider pruning dogwoods, willows and smoke bush to keep them at a manageable size.

Prune winter-flowering jasmine (Jasminum nudiflorum) after flowering, to encourage new growth for next year's blooms. Cut back the previous year's growth to 5cm from the old wood.

Divide spent snowdrops and re-plant whilst in the green to guarantee success.

Harvest hazel by coppicing down to a foot of growth about soil level. Use the prunings to make tepees and arches for sweet peas and beans to climb in summer.

Jobs for the Vegetable Garden

When your seed potatoes arrive, lay them to chit in egg boxes to give them a head start once in the ground.

Top dress fruit bushes with manure or compost to feed plants for the forthcoming season.

Sow hardy peas and broad beans which germinate at low temperatures.

Force rhubarb for an early crop by covering the crown with a forcer or upturned bucket. Forced stems are especially prized for their sweetness.

Protect the tender blossom of apricot, peach and nectarine trees by covering them with fleece if a dip in temperatures is forecast.

Warm the soil with cloches before making early sowings of carrots, salads and parsnips.

Keep up with the winter harvests of cabbages, kale, sprouts, sprouting broccoli, leeks, parsnips, cauliflower, chard and spinach.

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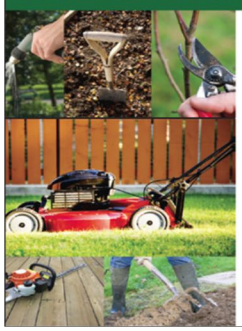

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UFFORD DIARY DATES FOR FEBRUARY

EVENTS

7th February	Ufford Art History Group - Roy Tricker talk on St Mary's Church Meet at the church at 10.50 am for 11am start (lunch at 12.30 in the White Lion)	
12th February	Friends of Parklands Wood working party 9am	UCH
13th February	Shrove Tuesday	
13th February	White Lion Quiz evening - food from 7pm, quiz starts at 8pm	
14th February	Valentine's Day	
14th February	Ufford Coffee Morning 10am-12noon	UCH
15th February	Open Mic Evening at the White Lion - 7.30pm for 8pm start	
20th February	Ufford Parish Council meeting 7pm	UCH
26th February	Friends of Parklands Wood working party 9am	UCH
28th February	Ufford Gardening Club 7.30pm - Chris Reeve talking on Biodiversity at Helmingham Hall	UCH

CLASSES AND CLUBS

Mondays 2.15pm	Tai Chi Classes	UCH
Monday and Friday evenings from 5pm	Tennis Club	UCH
Tuesdays 2.00pm	Carpet Bowls	UCH
Thursdays 9.30-10.30am and 10.45-11.45am	Happy Babies	UCH

BRIDGE CLUBS

Friendly Bridge Club
Mondays 6.30pm **UCH**

U2 Bridge Club
Wed 14th & 28th February 1.45pm **UCH**

WHERE?

SMPH	St Mary's Parish Hall, Church Lane
UCH	Ufford Community Hall, The Avenue

The PUNCH Directory

Schedule of events and classes are on the diary dates above

Boules (by tennis court)
2pm Tuesdays, turn up and play

Bridge Classes
Mike Fisher
www.mikefisherbridge.com

Carpet Bowls
Di Fulcher 01394 460551

Community Hall
Bookings.uch@gmail.com

Cycle Club
Stephen Thurlow 01394 460770

Deben Probus Club
John Hickling 01728 746322
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Lyn Taylor 01394 460253
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St Mary's Parish Hall
Karen Eyres 01394 460455
k.eyres@btopenworld.com

Tennis Club
Chris Cage 01394 461082

U2 Bridge Club
Adrian Smith 01394 461179

Ufford Art History Group
Jenny Searle 01394 460317

Ufford Arts Festival
Jeremy Eyres 07739 330398

Ufford Basketball Club
Daniel Metz
uffordbasketball@gmail.com

Ufford Friendly Bridge Club
Lyn Taylor 01394 460253

Ufford Gardening Club
Sheila Creswick 01394 547658
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www.uffordgardeningclub.org.uk

Ufford Players Theatre
Jackie Wilks 01473 333167

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The Leap Year Quiz Answers

1. A) Approx 4 million
2. An Oscar for her role as Mammy in Gone with the Wind.
3. False - leap year rules state that the year has to be divisible by 4 or 400. So no leap years between 2096 and 2104 … not that many of us will care!
4. Gioachino Rossini
5. Dragon
6. I Should Be So Lucky
7. Abraham Lincoln
8. The Monkees
9. 1896
10. Bachelor's Day

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Father Paul's Letter

In the Christian Calendar we begin February with a look back to the Christmas and Epiphany season. On 2nd February we celebrate the feast of Candlemas when we give thanks for the Christ Child as the light of the world as he is presented as a baby in the temple according to the Jewish customs. He is presented to God and as we give thanks for the gift of Christ in our world so we move from that season of the revelation of Christ to the season of Lent, which this year begins on 14th February with Ash Wednesday, when we begin to work on strengthening our relationship to God in Christ.

14th February of course is also then feast of St Valentine, when we traditionally celebrate the ones we love. We are called to growth in love and faith with God and with one another. The world isn't an easy place and all of us face challenges in different ways. As we move into Lent let us open our hearts and minds to the knowledge of then love of God for all people no matter what our belief is or isn't.

With my love and prayers

Fr. Paul

At this time when many people are suffering from rising food prices and increasing costs the "little pantry" and food banks are needed more than ever. Their supplies and donations have decreased and so need our help. When you are shopping if you feel able to buy a little extra the collection box is once again in church for your donations.

Worship at Ufford & Melton

Everyone welcome to Services in February

Sun 4th 4 before Lent

8.00 am Holy Communion BCP at Melton

10.00 am Parish Eucharist at Ufford

10.00 am Morning Worship at Melton

Sun 11th Next before Lent

8.00 am Holy Communion BCP at Ufford

10.00 am Eucharist at Melton

Sun 18th Lent 1

8.00 am Holy Communion BCP at Melton

10.00 am Parish Eucharist at Ufford

10.00 am Morning Worship at Melton

Sun 25th Lent 2

8.00 am Holy Communion BCP at Ufford

10.00 am Eucharist at Melton

Please check the church website for updates and the church calendar

LIVE CHURCH CALENDAR ON THE WEBSITE

www.uffordchurch.org.uk

Jenny Searle

Food Banks - donations welcome to the 'Little Pantry' at St Andrew's Church, Melton and Collection Box at Ufford Church. Thank you.

Online prayer resources:

https://pray-as-you-go.org/home/

https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-service-daily-prayer

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In France they love pancakes. They call sweet pancakes "crepes" and savoury pancakes "galettes".

The first pancakes were called "Alita Dolcia" which means "another sweet" in Latin and were made by Romans in the 1st Century AD.

The Guinness World Record for flipping a pancake in one minute is held by Brad Jolly from Australia who managed to flip the pancake 140 times!

Happy Pancake Day!

The town of Olney in England hosts an annual pancake race in celebration of "Pancake Day". They've done it every year since 1445!

Pancake Day is also known as Shrove Tuesday in the UK, an old Christian Festival that always falls on a Tuesday before the beginning of Lent. In Germany they call it "Fastnacht" which means "eve of the fast" and in the USA they called it Mardi Gras or Fat Tuesday!

In the UK, an amazing 52 million eggs will be used on Pancake Day!

Paula Hill

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